

Montana Educator License Renewal Requirements

Most Licenses	Class	Type of License		Requirement(s) to Renew
	1	Professional Teaching		60 OPI renewal units or any combination of OPI renewal units and semester/quarter college credits.
	3	Administrative		60 OPI renewal units or any combination of OPI renewal units and semester/quarter college credits.
	2	Standard Teaching		Combination of college credit and OPI renewal units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester credits and 15 OPI renewal units; or • 4 semester credits; or • 4 quarter credits and 20 OPI renewal units; or • 5 quarter credits and 10 OPI renewal units; or • 6 quarter credits
	5	Alternative		Cannot be renewed; converts to a full license or expires.
	6	School Psychologist; or School Counselor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 OPI renewal units; or • Any combination of OPI renewal units and graduate level credits
	7	American Indian Language		60 renewal units authorized and verified by the Tribe.
	8	Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary		60 renewal units. Note: if the licensee holds a master's degree, the instruction of a relevant higher education course may meet the definition of "renewal units".
Career and Technical	Class	Type of License	Requirement(s) to Renew	
	4A	With a Class 1 or 2 teaching license	See Class 2 above	At the first renewal, appropriate content areas must include, but shall not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles and/or philosophy of career and technical education; • Safety and teacher liability. Note: Those Class 4A licensees with a master's degree may meet these requirements with renewal units only.
	4B & 4C	NO Class 1 or 2 teaching license	See Class 2 above	Appropriate content areas must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • principles and/or philosophy of career and technical education; • curriculum and instruction in career and technical education; • learning styles/teaching styles; including serving students with special needs; • safety and teacher liability; • classroom management; • teaching methods; • career guidance in career and technical education; or • endorsement related technical studies, with prior approval.
Additional Information	All renewal units must be earned and awarded during the valid term of the license.			
	What is a renewal unit?	1 semester credit	=	15 OPI renewal units
		1 quarter credit	=	10 OPI renewal units
		1 hour of attendance at a workshop	=	1 OPI renewal unit
	College Credit	All academic credit must be earned from a regionally accredited college or university		
	Activities from In-State, Approved Providers	All non-academic credit programs must be authorized by an "Approved Provider" of renewal unit credit. Government agencies (federal, state, tribal, county, city) and professional education organizations may be "Approved Providers" by agreeing to abide by the Administrative Rules governing professional development activities.		
	Living Out-Of-State?	Educators licensed in Montana who are living out of state, and participate in another state's validated professional development activities, other than college/university credit, may use these renewal unit activities when the intent and structure of the process assures the meeting or exceeding of Montana renewal unit requirements for licensure.		
	Activities Not Already Approved	Educators licensed in Montana who are living in state, and wish to participate in professional development activities offered by providers who have not been approved as a renewal unit provider may apply to the State Superintendent for approval prior to beginning the program. Information is available at www.opi.mt.gov/cert .		
	Professional Development: Admin. R. Mont. 10.55.714	(1) By definition, professional development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) focuses on teachers as central to student learning, yet includes all other members of the school community; (b) focuses on individual, collegial, and organizational improvement; (c) respects and nurtures the intellectual and leadership capacity of teachers, principals, and others in the school community; (d) reflects proven research and practice in teaching, learning, and leadership; (e) enables teachers to develop further experience in subject content, teaching strategies, uses of technologies, and other essential elements in teaching to high standards; (f) promotes continuous inquiry and improvement embedded in the daily life of schools; (g) is ongoing and sustained; (h) is planned collaboratively by those who will participate in and facilitate that development; (i) requires substantial time and other resources; (j) is driven by a coherent long-term plan; and (k) is evaluated ultimately on the basis of its impact on teacher effectiveness and student learning, and this assessment guides subsequent professional development efforts. 		